

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A semiconductor device comprising:

a first well connected to a pad to which an external pin is connected, the first well including a first-type diffusion region that receives a well bias voltage;

a second well adjacent to the first well, the second well including an insulating region and at least one second-type diffusion region outside the insulating region; and

a third well adjacent to the second well and including a first-type diffusion region that receives a first voltage,

wherein the insulating region inside the second well having a first-type diffusion region along with the first-type diffusion region of the first well constitute a bipolar junction transistor which operates in a cut-off mode and cuts off current from flowing from the first well to the third well.

2. (original) The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein the at least one second-type diffusion region outside the insulating region comprises a first second-type diffusion region and a second second-type diffusion region, and the second well comprises:

a first sub-well arranged between the insulating region and the first well and including the first second-type diffusion region; and

a second sub-well arranged between the insulating region and the third well and including the second second-type diffusion region,

wherein the insulating region is a third sub-well having a first-type diffusion region.

3. (original) The semiconductor device of claim 2, wherein the first and second sub-wells of the second well are P-wells, and the first voltage is applied to the second-type diffusion regions of the first and second sub-wells of the second well.

4. (Original) The semiconductor device of claim 2, wherein the third sub-well is an N-well, and a second voltage is applied to the first-type diffusion region of the third sub-well.

5. (original) The semiconductor device of claim 4, wherein the first voltage is a ground voltage, and the second voltage generates a backward voltage between a base and an emitter of a bipolar junction transistor, the bipolar junction transistor comprising the first-type diffusion region of the first well, the second-type diffusion region of the first sub-well, and the first-type diffusion region of the third sub-well.

6.. (original) The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein the first and third wells are N-wells.

7. (original) The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein the well bias voltage applied to the first-type diffusion region of the first well is a power supply voltage.

8. (original) The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein a region to which the pad is connected is a second-type diffusion region.

9. (original) The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein the first-type diffusion regions are formed of N-type impurities, and the at least one second-type diffusion region is formed of P-type impurities.

10. (original) The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein the insulating region of the second well has a structure that surrounds the first well.

11. (original) The semiconductor device of claim 1, wherein the third well constitutes a depletion-type MOS transistor.

12. (previously presented) A semiconductor device comprising:
a first N-well connected to a pad to which an external pin is connected, the first N-well including an N-type diffusion region that receives a well bias voltage, and a P-type diffusion region formed in the vicinity of the pad;
a first P-well adjacent to the first N-well, the first P-well including an insulating region and at least one P-type diffusion region that receives a ground voltage outside the insulating region; and
a second N-well adjacent to the first P-well and including an N-type diffusion region that receives the ground voltage,

wherein the insulating region is a sub-N-well embedded within said first P-well and having an N-type diffusion region that receives an off mode control voltage for preventing a latch-up current.

13. (original) The semiconductor device of claim 12, wherein the at least one P-type diffusion region comprises a first P-type diffusion region and a second P-type diffusion region and the first P-well comprises:

a first sub-P-well located between the insulating region and the first N-well and including the first P-type diffusion region; and

a second sub-P-well located between the insulating region and the second N-well and including the second P-type diffusion region.

14. (original) The semiconductor device of claim 13, wherein the N-type diffusion

region of the first N-well, the P-type diffusion region of the first sub-P-well, and the N-type diffusion region of the insulating region constitute a bipolar junction transistor which cuts off a current flowing from the first N-well to the second N-well.

15. (original) The semiconductor device of claim 14, wherein the control voltage generates a backward voltage between a base and an emitter of the bipolar junction transistor composed of the N-type diffusion region of the first N-well, the P-type diffusion region of the first sub-P-well, and the N-type diffusion region of the insulating region.

16. (original) The semiconductor device of claim 12, wherein the well bias voltage applied to the N-type diffusion region of the first N-well is a power supply voltage.

17. (original) The semiconductor device of claim 12, wherein the insulating region of the first P-well has a structure that surrounds the first N-well.

18. (original) The semiconductor device of claim 12, wherein the second N-well constitutes a depletion-type MOS transistor.

19. (Currently amended) A method of forming a semiconductor device comprising:

forming a first well connected to a pad to which an external pin is connected, the first well including a first-type diffusion region that receives a well bias voltage;

forming a second well adjacent to the first well, the second well including an insulating region and at least one second-type diffusion region outside the insulating region; and

forming a third well adjacent to the second well and including a first-type diffusion region that receives a first voltage,

wherein the insulating region inside the second well having a first-type diffusion region along with the first-type diffusion region of the first well constitute a bipolar

junction transistor which operates in a cut-off mode and cuts off current flowing from the first well to the third well.

20. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein the at least one second-type diffusion region outside the insulating region comprises a first second-type diffusion region and a second second-type diffusion region, and the step of forming a second well comprises:

forming a first sub-well between the insulating region and the first well, the first sub-well including the first second-type diffusion region; and

forming a second sub-well between the insulating region and the third well, the second sub-well including the second second-type diffusion region,

wherein the insulating region is a third sub-well having a first-type diffusion region.

21. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein the first and second sub-wells of the second well are P-wells, and the first voltage is applied to the second-type diffusion regions of the first and second sub-wells of the second well.

22. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein the third sub-well is an N-well, and a second voltage is applied to the first-type diffusion region of the third sub-well.

23. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein the first and third wells are N-wells.

24. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein the first-type diffusion regions are formed of N-type impurities, and the at least one second-type diffusion region is formed of P-type impurities.